

Questions and Answers:

Request for Proposals from Indian Tribes for Competitive Grants under Clean Water Act Section 319 in FY 2007 (CFDA 66.460 – Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants; Funding Opportunity Number EPA-OW-OWOW-07-1)

The RFP for competitive Section 319 grants in FY 2007 states that:

“EPA will respond to questions from individual applicants regarding threshold eligibility criteria, administrative issues related to the submission of the proposal, and requests for clarification about this announcement. Questions must be submitted before December 5, 2006 in writing to the appropriate EPA Regional Tribal NPS Coordinator and written responses will be posted on EPA’s website at: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/tribal/>”

The following question and answer is in response to the above RFP:

QUESTION

I plan on submitting a base work plan and competitive proposal and work plan which will begin implementing our watershed based plan. While we have committed ourselves through the FY 2007 proposal to accomplish this watershed based plan, it will not be completed nor reviewed by the submittal deadline for this year’s funding. According to the 319 Tribal Guidelines, *“If a Tribe submits a work plan to implement a watershed-based plan, it must be accompanied by a statement that the Region finds that the watershed-based plan to be implemented includes the nine components of a watershed-based plan.”* Can I submit a proposal for this year to implement a watershed-based plan, even though we have not completed the development of a watershed-based plan, nor has it been reviewed by the regional EPA staff?

ANSWER

No, a watershed-based plan must be approved by the EPA Regional Office before a Tribe can submit a work plan for the implementation of a watershed-based plan. However, a Tribe may still submit a work plan which includes implementation of watershed projects. Under the Selection Criteria for competitive grants, the evaluation factors pertaining to watershed-based plans (Section B.V.1.i) allow work plans to implement watershed projects (see i(ii) and (iv)) based on the extent to which the project can be linked to nonpoint source impairments or threats on a watershed-wide basis. It should be noted that *“...in addition to considering the rankings, the Committee may also give priority considerations to high quality work plans that are designed to develop and/or implement a watershed-based plan”* (Section B.V.2). So, although a high quality work plan that implements a watershed project may rate high, priority may be given to a work plan that either develops or implements a watershed-based plan.